

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A semiconductor circuit comprising:  
a reset transistor having a drain region, a source region, and a gate  
5 connected to receive a plurality of reset pulses; and  
a photodiode connected to the reset transistor.
2. The semiconductor circuit of claim 1 and further comprising  
a non-volatile memory device connected to the reset transistor and the  
10 photodiode.
3. The semiconductor circuit of claim 2 wherein the  
non-volatile memory device has a drain region, a source region, a floating  
gate, and a control gate that is connected to the reset transistor and the  
15 photodiode.
4. The semiconductor circuit of claim 3 wherein the plurality of  
reset pulses occur during a single image capture cycle.
- 20 5. The semiconductor circuit of claim 4 wherein when a first  
number of photons are collected by the photodiode, a first number of  
electrons are injected onto the floating gate, and when a second number  
of photons less than the first number are collected by the photodiode, a  
second number of electrons are injected onto the floating gate that is  
25 greater than the first number.
6. The semiconductor circuit of claim 5 wherein the drain and  
source regions of the non-volatile memory device have a p conductivity  
type.

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7. The semiconductor circuit of claim 5 wherein the drain and source regions of the non-volatile memory device have an n conductivity type.

5 8. The semiconductor circuit of claim 4 wherein the drain and source regions of the non-volatile memory device have a first conductivity type, and are formed in a semiconductor material of a second conductivity type, the photodiode having a region of the first conductivity type and a region of the second conductivity type, the region of the first conductivity  
10 type of the photodiode contacting the control gate of the non-volatile memory device.

9. The semiconductor circuit of claim 8 wherein the drain and source regions of the non-volatile memory device have a p conductivity  
15 type.

10. The semiconductor circuit of claim 8 wherein the drain and source regions of the non-volatile memory device have an n conductivity  
20 type.

11. The semiconductor circuit of claim 4 wherein when a first number of photons are collected by the photodiode, a first number of electrons are injected onto the floating gate, and when a second number of photons less than the first number are collected by the photodiode, a  
25 second number of electrons are injected onto the floating gate that is less than the first number.

12. The semiconductor circuit of claim 11 wherein the drain and source regions of the non-volatile memory device have a p conductivity  
30 type.

13. The semiconductor circuit of claim 11 wherein the drain and source regions of the non-volatile memory device have an n conductivity type.

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14. A method of capturing an image with an imaging cell, the imaging cell comprising:

a reset transistor having a drain region, a source region, and a gate connected to receive a plurality of reset pulses; and

10 a photodiode connected to the reset transistor,

the method comprising the steps of:

placing a reset voltage on the photodiode by pulsing on the reset transistor; and

15 collecting photons for a second period of time, the collected photons changing a magnitude of the reset voltage over the second period of time.

15. The method of claim 14 and further comprising the step of storing a charge that represents a number of photo-generated charge carriers that were collected during the second period of time.

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16. The method of claim 15 and further comprising the step of repeating the placing, collecting, and storing steps a plurality of times to generate a total stored charge.

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17. The method of claim 16 wherein the total stored charge represents a single bit of an image.

18. The method of claim 16 and further comprising the step of reading the total stored charge to generate a post image cycle current.

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19. The method of claim 18 and further comprising the step of generating a pre-image cycle current prior to collecting photons for the second period of time.

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20. The method of claim 19 and further comprising the step of subtracting the post image cycle current from the pre-image cycle current.